

## **President's Report January 2016**

### **Construction**

*Eagle Pass Academic* – Is just about complete, there are a couple of cosmetic items that remain; however, we have moved furniture in and are in process of setting up technology equipment. The building will be operational for the first day of class. Sul Ross – Rio Grande College has scheduled their open-house and dedication for the expansion of Building D for January 29<sup>th</sup> at 1pm. We will schedule our dedication and open house later in the semester.

*Eagle Pass Technical Campus* – Contractor is pushing hard to have the classroom and office building completed soon. The diesel and welding lab will most likely be completed during the spring semester. We did not schedule any classes at this site until the Fall 2016. Our plan is to utilize the summer to move the diesel program from the main campus to the new site.

*Crystal City Library* – We have begun the preliminary work to kick off the project. Before the contract can begin, the City will have to relocate some utilities. We will schedule a ground-breaking – hopefully have a firm date by board meeting.

### **Partnerships**

*Dual Credit/Early College High School* –

- We have for board consideration the continuation of MOU with San Felipe Del Rio school district for the 2016-2017 academic year.
- Eagle Pass ISD and SWTJC will jointly develop a plan to expand their dual credit offering through the formation of an academy as opposed to early college high school. In effect will operate very similar without as many restrictions and state regulations.
- We continue to develop articulation agreements with our senior institutions. Texas AM Kingsville is just about to complete articulations for chemical engineering for our new pre engineering program.
- We have also added several new articulation agreements with Rio Grande College.

### **Other**

*Chief Information Officer* – Our new chief information officer, Raul Reyes is on board. The board had authorized this position last year and interviews were held in the Fall. He is working under VP Tarski and is overseeing all of our I.T. operations as well as Public Information. He has begun to develop an assessment of where the college is with respect to I.T. and will develop a plan on how to move us forward in a systematic way. As I stated to the board last year, the college is very dependent on information technology for its operation and it represents one of the biggest threats. This move will help us bring that exposure under control and reposition us from a reactionary approach to a proactive approach to information technology.

*Campus Security* – As you can probably imagine, the topic of campus security is another great concern. We have had a couple of issues that have raised the awareness coupled with the change in state law that will permit concealed hand guns on college campus in the upcoming year. As a result, this past fall we increased our security coverage for Eagle Pass and Del Rio from just the evenings to include coverage from 7 am – 10 pm. In addition, we are looking at strategically installing a security camera system and making sure that every office and classroom can be locked from the inside. Vice President Sandoval has been assigned the task to update our current Emergency Response Plan and that process is just about complete. We have put in place a robust notification system that will alert our personnel as well as law enforcement agencies should an emergency situation arise. Our CIO has implemented another level of alerts to notify and inform our college community of other situations such as weather, safety, road conditions, etc. Also during convocation we held a special session informing the faculty of the added measures and begin the conversation of concealed weapons on campus. The law goes into effect for us Fall 2017; however, for Rio Grande College which is located on each of our three main sites theirs goes into effect Fall 2016.

## **Events**

- Law Enforcement graduations were held December 3 & 4 for cadets in Eagle Pass and Uvalde – both were very well attended
- Briscoe Ranch BBQ Cook-Off was held December 11 – this year the cook-off grew from 40 entries to 120 entries. The event was huge success and proceeds benefit SWTJC Scholarships
- Representative Poncho Nevarez – Met in Eagle Pass to discuss issues related to our technical campus (1/5)
- TACC Executive Committee Meeting – met to discuss the legislative priorities for the next session – top items on our priorities are – Dual Credit, Funding, and Workforce Training and Development. I was appointed to the Dual Credit Task Force.
- Area Stock Shows – Zavala County 1/18 was attended by Margot Mata on my behalf. She and Mr. Lopez presented the Showmanship Scholarships
- Real County is scheduled for 1/15 and Uvalde 1/30
- Faculty Convocation was held 1/12 and was followed up by meetings and training session the rest of the week. The first day of classes is Tuesday 1/ 19.

***Morale is high and the energy level is high among our faculty and staff. We look forward to building on the momentum we have achieved through our SACS-COC success and continue pressing forward. Senior leadership has begun to review our strategic plan and will present to the board later this spring suggested modifications and revisions to the plan. Our goal is to constantly be assessing and reassessing our goals and strategies.***